CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for producing an option menu comprising:

a plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits, each producing a video output; and

a processor coupled to said plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits for utilizing said video output of each of said plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits to generate an option menu.

2. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 1, wherein each of said on-screen display integrated circuits is capable of producing eight background colors, eight foreground colors, and a video display having a maximum of fifteen rows by thirty columns of characters, and wherein each character comprises a twelve by eighteen pixel matrix.

3. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 1, wherein each on-screen display integrated circuit is capable of displaying characters in a plurality of fonts.

4. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 1, wherein each on-screen display integrated circuit is capable of displaying a plurality of foreground colors.

5. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 1, wherein each on-screen display integrated circuit is capable of displaying a plurality of background colors.

6. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second set of on-screen display integrated circuits for producing a cursor on said option menu, wherein said processor integrates said cursor with said option menu.

7. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 6, wherein said system is disposed in a user workstation comprising a keyboard, mouse, and cursor control device.

8. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 7, wherein said cursor on said option menu is controlled via said keyboard and said cursor control device.

9. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 6, wherein said second set of on-screen display integrated circuits is capable of displaying said cursor in a plurality of fonts.

10. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 6, wherein said second set of on-screen display integrated circuits is comprised of a first on-screen display integrated circuit for generating an outline of said cursor and a second on-screen display integrated circuit for generating the body of said cursor.

11. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 6, further comprising:

a first clock for controlling the timing of said plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits; and

a second clock for controlling the timing of said second set of on-screen display integrated circuits.

12. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 6, wherein said system is implemented on a daughter board to facilitate connection to said user workstation.

13. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 6, wherein the size of said option menu can be changed using said keyboard and said cursor control device.

14. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 6 wherein said option menu is maximized to fill a video screen.

15. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 6, wherein the color depth of said option menu can be changed using said keyboard and said cursor control device.

16. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 1, wherein said processor produces an option menu in a digital video format.

17. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 1, wherein said processor produces an option menu in an analog video format.

18. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 1, wherein said option menu is displayed on a 4:3 ratio video monitor.

19. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 1, wherein said option menu is displayed on a 16:9 ratio video monitor.

20. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 1, wherein said option menu is displayed in conjunction with an external video source.

21. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 1, wherein said processor combines the video outputs of six on-screen display integrated circuits to produce said option menu.

22. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 21, wherein the color outputs of said on-screen display integrated circuits are combined by said processor to produce a single option menu.

23. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 21, wherein the video outputs of each of said on-screen display integrated circuits are combined such that each said video output is displayed in a different section of a video monitor.

24. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 21, wherein said processor utilizes four on-screen display integrated circuits to produce said option menu.

25. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system, said apparatus comprising:

a daughter board;

a plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits on said daughter board, each producing a video output; and

a processor on said daughter board to receive said video outputs to produce an option menu, wherein said option menu displays a list of computers connected to said computer management system.

26. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 25, wherein said list of computers is color coded.

27. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 25, wherein said list is automatically updated if computers are connected or disconnected to said system.

28. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 25, wherein said list is generated utilizing the video outputs of more than one of said plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits.

29. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 25, further comprising:

a second set of on-screen display integrated circuits for producing a cursor on said option menu, wherein said processor integrates said cursor with said option menu.

30. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 29, wherein said system is disposed in a user workstation comprising a keyboard, mouse, and cursor control device.

31. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 30, wherein said cursor on said option menu is controlled via said keyboard and said cursor control device.

32. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 31, wherein a user can select a connected computer from said list of connected computers utilizing said cursor.

33. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 32, wherein a user can select a connected computer from said list of connected computers to control.

34. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 32, wherein a user can select a connected computer from said list of connected computers to view the status of said selected computer.

35. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 32, wherein a user can select a connected computer from said list of connected computers to perform diagnostics.

36. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 22, wherein said list is logically organized.

37. A method for producing an option menu for use in a computer management system comprising the steps of:

sending control signals and synchronization signals to a first plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits;

sending control signals and synchronization signals to a second plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits;

receiving video outputs from said first plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits to produce an option menu; and

receiving video outputs form said second plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits to produce a cursor for said option menu.